

Seshadri 1999-0357

IN THE CLAIMS:

- 1. (Currently Amended)** A method, executed in a control node, for controlling bandwidth of communication from a station to a destination module in time slots assigned by said control node that recur at a given rate where a preselected number of blocks of time slots form a frame, where said station sends packets that carry a voice signal in a channel specified by said control node, comprising the steps of:
- a) first ascertaining whether said station is in a relative silence period;
  - b) when said step of first ascertaining concludes that said station is in said relative silence period, sending a control message to said station that reduces bandwidth of said channel, which control message specifies a slot in a subset of the blocks of a frame for transmission of packets belonging to said channel ~~that~~ and the number of blocks in said subset is not less than a quarter of said number of blocks that form said frame;
  - c) second ascertaining whether said station is in an active period;
  - d) when said step of second ascertaining determines that said station is in an active period, determining whether there is excess ~~excess~~ capacity that can be assigned to said station; and
  - e) sending a control message to said station that increases said bandwidth of said channel when said step of determining concludes that there is excess capacity that can be assigned to said station.